

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 29, 2003 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 5). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claim 5 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claim 1 is being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Claims 6-8 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application. In addition, new claim 10 is hereby submitted for consideration.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Owen *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,450,221, (further the '221 patent). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner alleges in the office action, on page 2, lines 11 – 21 that all the elements recited by of claims 1 and 9 are anticipated by the '221 patent. The Examiner makes reference to "a first housing 80, a second housing 60, a third housing 12, a liquid crystal panel fixed between the first housing and the second housing 66, a light source fixed to said third housing 38 which sits in holes 36 after twisting to secure lamp to the inside surface, said second housing and said third housing are detachable 62 fit into holes 30 and are detachable as they are not permanently attached, a timing-converter board fixed to an opposite side surface and said third housing so a side surface see 46 and 40 attached to the outside surface of 12, and protrusions 26" as anticipating the disclosure of claims 1 and 9. The Examiner also alleges that "the first housing, second housing and the third housing overlap [see figure 7]".

After careful review of the '221 patent, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference only discloses an outer metal cover 80, a frame 60, molded housing 12, a cell 66, lamps 38, apertures 36, locator pins 62, alignment holes 30, surface mount logic module 46, a flexible printed circuit 40, housing 12, spacer pins 26.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '221 patent does not teach that the alleged first housing 80 (the outer metal cover) and the alleged second housing 60 (the frame)

are fixed. The '221 patent instead teaches that the alleged first housing 80 and the alleged second housing 60 are fixed relative to the alleged third housing 12 (the molded housing).

In contrast, the disclosure of the present invention recites at least in one instance, on page 15, lines 16 – 19 that “In this manner, the first housing 1 and the second housing 2 are fixed in a state, in which the peripheral...”. The present invention teaches that the first housing and the second housing are fixed. The present invention also teaches that in the event that maintenance of the back-light is necessary or the third housing needs to be changed, the third housing can be removed without changing the fixed position of the first housing, second housing and liquid crystal display. In the context disclosed by the '221 patent, in order to remove the third housing, the first and the second housings will be displaced too, because they are fixed to the third housing.

Due to the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the rejection regarding claims 1 and 9, due to the fact that the '221 patent does not recite or disclose all the features of the invention as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from and add features to claim 1 discussed above. In view of the above arguments, Applicants will contend that they are also allowable for at least the same reasons and for reasons contained therein. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claims 2 and 4.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Owen *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,450,221, (further the '221 patent). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 3 is dependent from and adds features to claim 1 discussed above. In view of the above arguments, Applicants will contend the claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons and for reasons contained therein.

In addition, the Examiner alleges on page 3, lines 12 – 16 that “'221 discloses the claimed invention except for the light source control circuit arranged on the opposite side surface”. Applicants respectfully disagree. The '221 patent does not disclose the claimed invention at least for the reasons described above in connection with claims 1 and 9.

Due to the differences outlined above, Applicants note that the reference fails to disclose all the features of the invention as claimed by claim 3. Therefore the reference does not anticipate the subject matter disclosed by the claim.

Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 10 is being newly introduced. The disclosure of new claim 10 is supported by the Specification on page 21, lines 1 to 15.

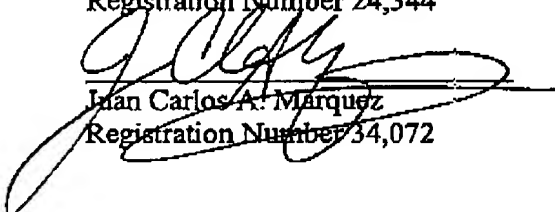
CONCLUSION

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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PATENT APPLICATION
(PENDING)

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Serial No.: 09/671,429 Filed: Sept 27, 2000Any Docket No.: H.T.A. - 0024Applicant(s): Morishita et al
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